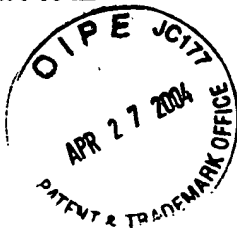


**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Application Number: 09/821,587

Filing Date: March 29, 2001

First Named Inventor: Darrin Wayne HIGGINS et al.

Group Art Unit: 2672

Examiner: WANG, Jin Chen

Attorney Docket Number: 09090.0002-02000

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☒ Consider the arguments in the Amendment After Final previously filed on February 24, 2004.
- ii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Enclosed:
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated as follows:
- i. ☒ \$385.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) (small entity fee)
- ii. ☒ Petition for extension of time for two months \$210.00 (small entity fee)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$595.00 enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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APR 30 2004

Technology: \$2600

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: Anthony J. Lombardi

Reg. No.: 53,232

Signature: *Anthony J. Lombardi*

Date: April 27, 2004

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name:

Signature:

Date: